

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 9, 2003, claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,680). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration.

Sato et al. discusses a DTD (Document Type Definition) including a plurality of elements ("PROMULGATION", "ESTABLISHED REGULATIONNO", "TITLE", "PRESENTREGULATION", etc.) of structure ("#PCDATA") (see column 8 lines 25-63). In contrast to the present invention, Sato et al. does not discuss or suggest plural elements define a plurality of types of logical structures, respectively, since Sato does not discuss or suggest that a plurality of element declarations respectively define a plurality of types of logical structures for the same one document instance.

Sato et al. discusses that "The keyword extraction module 102 shown in Fig. 1 checks whether there is a string in the electronic document which string matches the format conditions of the keyword extraction rule. If there is a matching string, it is extracted as the keyword" (see Fig. 1&7, col. 9, lines 19-24 of Sato).

Each of independent claims 1, 9, 13, and 14 of the present invention recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "a plurality of element declarations which respectively define a plurality of types of logical structures for said one document instance".

In addition, dependent claims 2-8 and 10-12 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 2 of the present application recites "for each of the plurality of entity declarations, control information indicating whether the entity declaration is valid or invalid is additional described".

The foregoing features of the present invention are not discussed or suggested by Sato.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited, and, otherwise, an interview with the Examiner is respectfully requested.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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